

MATWATCH

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SEPTEMBER 25-OCTOBER 1

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TULLY & ARN LEAVING WWF TO "RETURN HOME;"

WILL OLE LEAD REVIVAL OF FOUR HORSEMEN?

ATLANTA --- Only a year after bolting Jim Crockett Promotions for a turn with Titan Sports, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson are leaving the World Wrestling Federation to return as headliners in the National Wrestling Alliance.

MATWATCH and THE WRESTLING OBSERVER have learned through independent sources that Blanchard and Anderson turned in their resignations Sept. 20 to Titan officials. Their last expected WWF appearance will be for the Thanksgiving night SURVIVOR SERIES. Unless legal complications cloud the issue (most Titan contracts are for two years and questions have been raised as to conditions of the departure), Blanchard and Anderson---only team ever to hold both the NWA and WWF world tag team championships in the post-1984 era---will likely make their return to the NWA at the Dec. 13 STARRCADE spectacular in Atlanta.

NWA officials have been talking to Tully & Arn about a return almost since their defection last September. But Ric Flair's elevation to the role of NWA booker is a key factor in cementing the deal.

In a situation not unrelated, Ole Anderson, the original "leader" of the old Four Horsemen unit, has been spotted at NWA TV tapings in Atlanta the last two weeks. At least two sources say discussions have been held about Anderson becoming an adviser to U.S. champion Lex Luger, which could lead to a revival of the Luger-Anderson-Blanchard-Arn Anderson Horsemen combo.

The Tully & Arn move marks the first WWF-for-NWA defection of a headlining team since Ted Turner's purchase of the NWA in November 1988 and the first actual jump of an employed Titan wrestler for the NWA since Mike Rotunda's switch in the spring of 1987.

IN THE MATTER OF PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY

Let me say outright: I'm going to miss Paul E. Dangerously on the NWA. One cannot help but enjoy the talents of a young guy who has the ability to take control of an interview situation and shake an audience as if they're salt and pepper.

Let me further state that if the facts are correct as I have them---and I have talked to people on both sides of this question---Ric Flair had no choice but to release Paul E. from the NWA. Neither side is publicly commenting on this (litigation is a possibility over the five months remaining on Dangerously's contract) situation.

But Paul is a headstrong, determined young man and when he feels strongly, even bent to anger, over a cause, it sometimes triggers a fiery temper and the 24-year-



old Paul Heyman does not hesitate to say what he feels, at times in terms which get him into trouble.

Flair, likewise, is in a position of management now and felt that the shouting match which occurred between Dangerously and himself at Atlanta's Center Stage was too much for a booker's respect to take.

Whether the dispute between Flair and Dangerously went further than it should have, whether Flair actually had to fire him, whether Dangerously was overreacting to a perceived decline in his exposure from an impending shift to permanent TV commentary is all open for debate.

I like both men---both as performers and people. But the conflict could not have festered without an even more vehement explosion and in the course of the current NWA, Ric Flair wasn't going to be the one taking a walk. Continued conflict affects an entire company (I know from a past newsroom experience and TV news people are no different from wrestlers in their desires for a "push.").

The sad part is it's a no-win situation for the promotion, for Paul and for the fans. I expect Paul to land with either Titan or Rollergames but there's great irony here. Only six months ago, Jim Cornette---out of favor with the George Scott regime---was out of the promotion and Paul E. was the anointed new managerial star. Look at the NWA now. Any wonder a wrestler once told me, "You're only as secure as your last match?"

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

RODDY PIPER RESTING
WELL AFTER SCARE

Roddy Piper is expected to resume his WWF series with Rick Rude after being rushed to a hospital after a Sept. 18 card.

Initially feared to have a gall bladder attack, Piper was diagnosed as having bruised ribs. The injuries were not thought to be major but Piper was directed to take a 7-10 day rest.

The WWF star will likely be back in action this weekend.

TERRY FUNK RETURNING
TO ACTION IN EARLY OCTOBER

ATLANTA --- Terry Funk, initially feared out of action through Oct. 28 after surgery for an elbow infection, will likely return to action by early October.

Funk, to TV viewers, was given a lifetime suspension by the NWA for his "plastic bag" attack on Ric Flair on the Sept. 16 edition of WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING.

The "suspension" will be lifted in successive WTBS and syndicated shows after a request from Flair to "gain revenge."

ROUGEAUX TO LEAVE WWF, TOO??
OR IS IT A MONEY PLOY?

STAMFORD CT --- At least two sources have told MATWATCH Jacques and Raymond Rougeau are planning to leave the World Wrestling Federation. But one of the sources believes the move is a negotiating ploy.

The Rougeaus, still embroiled in a feud with the Rockers, are said to want more money, plus legitimate shots at the WWF tag team titles.

No word is available on what the team's plans would be, should they depart.

PINFALL PROFILE

To resume where we left off last week in advice to young hopefuls dreaming of a career as wrestling broadcasters, let me offer four final tips to at least get you prepared for what may be a long and difficult road, at best.

Tip #5: If you have distinct regionalism in your vocal delivery, you must work to neutralize it. I've often been told the best hint for newscasters is to work a couple of years in the Midwest. But if you're Southern, you may drawl your long vowel sounds. It's a problem I still deal with. If you're a Northeastern, articulation may be the problem, such as the phrase "park your car" sounding "pock ya cah." Find a vocal coach at your college ---preferably if you have a speech department. It may cost some money but if you want a career, it's worth it.

Tip #6: Try to find a video tape editing system on campus, record some wrestling shows from TV, get an audio engineer to help you and re-record your own commentary with a separate track of crowd noise playing while you call it. It's the only way to even simulate the feel of the live arena audience.

Tip #7: When you've followed all of this, put together a resume tape and send it to the promotions, along with a good cover letter about yourself. Be sure for on-camera work you are well-groomed, don't need a dose of Clearasil and dress well. Appearance is everything when you try to make an impression for any employer, be it a wrestling organization or IBM.

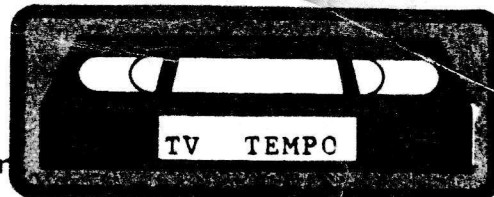
Final Tip: Don't be easily discouraged. Becoming a wrestling broadcaster is not the most wide-open ambition. Family connections, friends and outright cronyism still prevail in the wrestling profession. You may have to make a pest of yourself just to get someone to believe you're serious. Plus, with fewer outlets for TV work, jobs will not be plentiful. But if you're really, really good and believe in yourself, you may eventually get a foot in the door, even if it means working your way up from the bottom. But if you've dreamed of being the next Jim Ross or Vince McMahon, there is one sure way NOT to succeed: don't even try.

MESSAGE TO CALLERS AND ON MATWATCH MAIL DELIVERY

Let me take a brief moment for a message to you who call: I love hearing from you. But I can't guarantee to return every call. Why? There are 540-plus of you and one of me. First, I don't have the personal budget to return every call. Second, I have a regular job and a marriage and simply not enough time to return all the calls. If you have a crucial message, leave it on my answering machine.

However, let me make one special request: the hours to call are between 6 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Eastern weekdays, unless I tell you otherwise. Weekends, try us between 1 and 10 Saturdays and between 2 and 7 Sundays. I say this because the last 2 weeks, I've had calls at 2 a.m., 3:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. on items which could have waited. I do have to have sleep. Please respect the hours unless you're informed otherwise.

FINALLY: MATWATCH is mailed every Monday except Monday holidays and Mondays of PPV shows. Then, it goes out on Tuesdays. If you're in the U.S. and yours does not arrive by Saturday, call and leave a message or drop me a card. The postal authorities can't explain why it gets to you on different days of different weeks. Nor can I.



SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWER-SLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor

(SCW) - Ga. Power/Bobby Bennett d. Mr. Atlanta/Mike Golden/Invader; Burgerman d. Chance Myers; Steve Bennett d. Steve Reeves; Billy Starr d. Tony Keith; David Sammartino wins DQ over Joel Deaton. RESTHOLD.

(USWA) - Billy Travis wins DQ over Gary Young for over top; J.J. Funk d. Skandor Akbar and Funk & Young, along with Akbar & Frank Dusek brawl after; REPLAY: Taurus Bulba-Kerry Von Erich; USWA WORLD TITLE: Jerry Lawler d. Eric Embry when Akbar rings bell to fool Embry & Lawler rolls him up. DRAW.

(CWA) - Spike Huber d. Scott Hall; Buddy Landell d. Freezer Thompson; Wildside d. Steel/Big O; Dustin Rhodes/Bill Dundee win DQ over Blackbirds when Dustin & Bill are chloroformed; 8-MAN: Freddy/Texas Dirt/Rock & Roll Express d. Rooster Cogburn/Stomper Harris/Keith Eric/Keith Roberson. DRAW.

(STAMPEDE/2 Wks. Ago) - Kim Schau draw vs. Ken Johnson; Biff Wellington d. Goldie Rogers; Dr. Bee Gee Holliday wins DQ over Chris Benoit; HANDICAP: Larry Cameron d. Maximum Overdrive. BOMB-PLUS.

(Last Week) - Great Gama d. Schau; Max. O. Warrior d. Steve Gillespie; Holliday d. Johnson; Bruce Hart d. Rogers; Benoit d. Sumohara; Sasaki d. Wellington. ANGLE: Bob Brown suspended for shoving Wayne Hart after protesting "slow count" on Wellington. DRAW.

(ICW) - Kendall Windham d. Eric Saphrasia; S&S Express d. Chris Michael/Kingpin; Boston Bad Boy d. Tony Rumble; BAD BOY'S PLACE: The Duke & George Napolitano guest. BOMB.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: BRO. LUV-Piper-Rude angle; Ted DiBiase d. Gary Wolfe; Koko B. Ware d. Craig Reilly; Greg Valentine d. Bobby Munice; Rick Martel d. Terry Daniels; Ronnie Garvin wins DQ over Dino Bravo when Valentine runs in; Akeem d. Mark Frear; Tito Santana draw vs. Barry Widowmaker; REPLAY: Garvin-Bravo saga; COLISEUM VIDEO: Honky Tonk Man vs. Brutus Beefcake (WM4). RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [SUPERSTARS]: Koko d. Reilly; Bravo d. Tony Diamond; Sheepwackers d. Don Champ/Brooklyn Brawler; Akeem d. Frear; Garvin d. Sandy Beach; Roddy Piper d. Chris Duffy; Martel d. Daniels; FEATURE: Randy Savage d. Jim Duggan for the "crown" & Randy & Sherri keep elbowing Duggan after, who stretchers. BRO. LUV w. Andre/Heenan. DRAW.

[CHALLENGE]: Ultimate Warrior d. Jim Weiss; Hart Foundation d. Champ/Tony Ulysses; Curt Hennig d. Mario Mancini; DiBiase d. Wolfe; Dusty Rhodes d. Boris Zhukov; Hercules d. Mike Williams; Valentine d. Jim McPherson. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Skyscrapers d. Rusty Riddle/Len Wagner; Midnight Express d. Gene Ligon/Mark Reagan; Brian Pillman wins COR over Eddie Gilbert; Dynamic Dudes d. Cuban Assassin/Randy Rose; CLASH CLIPS: Warriors-SST; Steiners-Freebirds; Flair/Sting vs. Slater/Muta; Luger-Rich. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[NWA PRO]: Ron Simmons d. Ding Evans; Michael Hayes wins DQ over Stan Lane when Jim Cornette swats Hayes w. tennis racket after Jimmy Garvin decks Lane; CLASH CLIPS: Same as WWW, except Z-Man-Cuban A added. PEDICINO'S NOSE: Joe speculates Paul E. Dangerously is fired by SST. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Freebirds d. New Fantastics; Ranger Ross d. Scrap Iron Ford; Rick Steiner d. Norman. WNN: Gordon Solie calls for wrestling to get out of courtroom. FUNK'S GRILL: Terry moans about suspension & \$100,000 fine. WRESTLER OF WEEK - Dr. Death. DRAW.

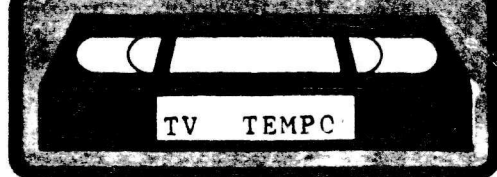
[WCW]: Pillman d. Gilbert; Z-Man d. Tommy Angel; Dynamic Dudes d. Bob Cook/Joe Cruz; HANDICAP: Great Muta d. Len Wagner/Ricky Nelson; Luger d. Riddle; ANGLE: Scott Steiner, waiting at a basketball court for Rick, is lured into a limo and beaten by two mystery men (Kevin Sullivan & Ron Simmons), kicked & left on a parking lot. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: State Patrol d. Lee Scott/Agent Steel; Dudes d. Cuban A/Rose; Dick Slater d. Bobby Eaton using cast. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(AWF) - Dangerous Don double countout vs. Diamond Dave; Greg Sawyer d. Mike Adonis; Tim Sledge wins countout over American Eagle; Paul Lee d. Terry Sales; Lee/Sledge d. Sawyer/Ron Davis w. heel ref. DOUBLE BOMB.

(CWF) - Southern Boys d. Lou Fabiano/Jamie Kyle; Dennis Condrey d. Dean Ho; Robert Fuller d. Bo Elliott; VIDEO: Kerry Von Erich, Jerry Lawler; Beauty & the Beast d. Danny Davis/Keith Hart. REPLAY: Linda Street-Baroness angle. BOMB-PLUS.

SPECIAL NOTE: FLORIDA, PORTLAND and AWA on ESPN all pre-empted this week. Until ACW airs a new tape, its results will be deleted from this space.



LINE OF THE WEEK - 1. Larry Cameron, Stampede, to sub announcer PETE MONTANA: "I want to congratulate you on guiding your team to the Super Bowl but I thought Joe Montana had more hair than that." 2. Jerry Lawler, CWF: "A guy from Alabama came up to me & said, 'Jerry, I want to introduce you to my wife & sister.' But only one woman was standing by him." 3. Jim Cornette & Jim Ross, PH, reacting to closeup of Robin Green: (JC) "Jim, get your hand off my leg." (JR) "I haven't been a bachelor THAT long." 4. Cornette, PH, on Norman: "He's got some St. Bernard in him but he's also got some pointer the way he's pointing at Robin Green." 5. Jesse Ventura & Vince McMahon, WWF: (JV) "The Bushwacker Book of Etiquette: I could see that on the best-seller list." (VM) "Not too many pages." 6. Vince, WWF, on Luke Williams: "He's not biting. You have to have teeth to bite." 7. Downtown Bruno, CWF: "There ain't a midget or a 10-year-old I can't mutilate." 8. Lawler, CWF: "I almost forgot the state of Alabama... intentionally." 9. Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: "Talk about guys that just rattle on...here's Sean Mooney." 10. Ed Whalen, Stampede, on Holliday: "He looks like Carl Lewis. He runs away all the time." 11. B.G. Holliday, Stampede, to Whalen: "You've got a beautiful suit, Ed. Wear it today and eight years from now, it'll be back in style."

12. Cornette, PH, on Robin: "I believe she's got a big following and what precedes her isn't bad either." 13. Cornette, PH, on Norman: "I believe Robin Green would make him bust a few bonds." 14. Ventura, WWF, on Koko: "All he needs is a trumpet and we can call him Satchmo." 15. Ventura, WWF, on Bushwackers: "They could win a war marching like that. The other guys would fall down laughing." 16. Cameron, Stampede: "Davey Boy, don't look for the guiding light. All you'll find is more darkness." 17. Charlie Platt, on SUPERSTAR DOWNTOWN BRUNO T-shirt: "Some people will do anything for money to put a lie on a T-shirt." 18. Cornette & Ross, PH: (JC) "Klondike Bill's got a big pair of pipes." (JR) "He's been practicing with Joe Pedicino." 19. Jesse V., WWF: "This is a mismatch---like you and I at the mike, McMahon. I'm Akeem and you're (Mark) Frear." 20. Bulldog Bob Brown, Stampede, on Wayne Hart: "He looks like he's sleeping all the time...he always has his eyes closed."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Cornette, WCW: "They got to Rick Steiner the only place they could get him: his heart." 2. Lawler, CWF: "Any wrestler with any sense at all would get out of Alabama."

TO TELL THE TRUTH AWARD - Joe Pedicino, WWW: "I don't think you're retiring, Paul E. I think you got kicked out."

BEST PICTURES - 1. TBS, Rick Steiner biting Norman's butt. 2. WWF, "Ultimate Giant" (Andre w. facepaint). 3. WWF, Piper beating Duffy w. belt.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Ventura, WWF, to McMahon: "Don't you have to go to the john?" 2. Cornette, WCW: "Isn't Worcester, Mass., where they make Worcestershire sauce?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. Captain Misfit (Skandor Akbar on Percy Pringle). 2. "The Truman Capote of Wrestling" (Piper on Heenan). 3. Cameron, Stampede, on Maximum Overdrive: "Ronald & Bozo."

BEST SONGS - 1. Piper, PTW: "On the Good Ship Lollipop. 2. Cornette, WCW: "Tommy Angel."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - NWA PRO, Gary Cappetta's mike dead for one ring intro.

BOO AWARD - TBS, for Parking Lot Angle II with Scott Steiner. It was "Dusty & the Horsemen: 3 Years Later." You may have loved it but I hate these parking lot attacks.

BLOOPER AWARD - TBS, reflection of cameraman & boom mike man on limo during Steiner attack.

TUBE TALK: Ed Whalen missed last week's Stampede show due to serious surgery....TSN has cut the Calgary show back to 60 min.....Linda Cossey, 1356 Dewey Ave., Rochester NY 14613, has petition drive going to get women's matches back in WWF....FCW has gone to Saturday night shows in Tampa and now taping two TVs every other Tuesday....Nelson Royal vows to have a new show in 2 weeks for ACW but most doubt it....

I'd like your comments, pro or con, on the Steiner parking lot angle & don't be unduly led by my "one man's view."....Jerry Lawler's win over Eric Embry had to puzzle the Memphis fans as to why Tojo & Akbar "helped" the King....Cornette is improving each week as a color man. He's shortening the span of his remarks....The Heenan-Piper tension is well worked on PTW but Roddy is not getting off as many good lines in "Studio B" by himself.

To you in the Carolinas..we've been thinking of you and hope you were spared the massive damage of Hugo. Til' next week, FSB.

NOT NUMBER ONE: TBS officials had hoped CLASH VIII, with its 4.7 rating, would finish as cable's top show for September. But the USA movie, FIRE AND RAIN, drew a 5.3/8 share at 9 the next night to take the lead.

BOOKING PROUD: Bobby Fulton is at least temporarily the new booker for Southern. He has told folks it's to give exposure to brother Jackie until their NWA premiere.

NOT HAPPY: Unhappy in the aforementioned change is ex-SCW booker, Jim Powell. He was informed of the switch when Fulton altered an ending just before a card.

CALLING CLASH: CLASH VIII drew more than 4,000 calls to the NWA 900 number on Sept. 12, a record for a CLASH and many of them were for the post-game show.

POLLING CLASH: For the record, we've had 84 calls on the CLASH and 79% called it a good-to-excellent show, 14% poor and 7% average. But 64% of the callers responded negatively to the "plastic bag" angle.

REPLACING PAUL: I've heard everyone from Gordon Solie to Teddy Long mentioned as a replacement for Paul E. Dangerously on NWA MAIN EVENT but I am betting on Jim Cornette as a short-term fill-in and Lance Russell to do the syndie version solo.

SLAMMERS: Entertainment entrepreneur Verne Langdon has opened SLAMMERS WRESTLING GYM in Sun Valley CA. The grand opening was last Friday. SLAMMERS is a combo Hall of Fame museum, party house and gym. You can actually rent the place for a per-hour fee and bring some friends over for a match. For more info, call (818) 879-6603.

MOOLAH'S CAMP: SLAMMERS will also be the home for a new wrestling school taught by The Fabulous Moolah. She calls it SLAM U and is signing up students.

CRASH RATINGS: In their premiere weeks, AMERICAN GLADIATORS scored a 3.9/12 in 115 markets, including a 6.8 on KHJ in LA. ROLLERGAMES debuted with a 5.1/8 in New York on WPIX and a 4.6/8 on KTLA. And SUPER MARIO BROTHERS SUPER SHOW, featuring Lou Albano, is the hottest new kids show, scoring a 4.8/11 its first week, winning its time period in 15 of the top 20 markets.

TOUCHDOWN: Want to know how crazy it gets doing MATWATCH? I actually had CWF going on

my Sony Watchman while in the stands of Jordan-Hare Stadium for the Auburn-Southern Miss game. That's either dedication or stupidity.

CROSSING THE STREET: Adrian Street is in a dispute with CWF's bookers over a proposed angle involving his wife, Linda. We'll deal with it in detail next week.

SPECULATING: If Tully & Arn indeed wind up their WWF commitments on Thanksgiving night, that points to a tag team title change likely on a SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT again. They haven't done one in syndication since the Hart Foundation win over the British Bulldogs.

CHRISTMAS ZEUS: The WWF pay show combining NO HOLDS BARRED and a Hogan-Zeus match Dec. 27 is being listed as a 2½-hour block at \$11.95 a pop, making it Titan's lowest-priced to date.

MORE PAY: The pay-per-view universe will soon make a big advancement. Tele-Communications, Inc., the country's largest cable firm, has just invested heavily in addressable equipment. TCI owns a chunk of TBS.

OUT OF MONTGOMERY: NWA has lost its WORLD WIDE slot on David Woods' WCOV in Montgomery, AL, to ROLLERGAMES, knocking the promotion out of the Alabama capital city, where it has a show scheduled in November.

CARD CHANGES: Some alterations on the lineup I gave you for HALLOWEEN HAVOC: Brian Pillman gets the U.S. title nod against Lex Luger and Steve Williams is shifted to a 6-man tag, partnered with the Midnight Express, possibly against the three Freebirds.

BLACKWELL & VERNE: Jerry Blackwell keeps discussing doing some things in partnership with Verne Gagne. He's listed as one of the "team" participants in the new AWA format but I can't believe Blackwell will actually get in the ring. Plus, at least a half-dozen of the listed roster names won't be participating, so publishing the lineup is useless.

A DATE WITH TONI: Friday night, the USWA main event in Dallas was a P.Y. Chu'i-Chris Adams match where if P.Y. wins, Tojo Yamamoto gets a date with Toni. Yeah, boy.

RACETRACK BRAWL: About 2,700 turned out at a rain-soaked racetrack for Dennis Colaruzzo's show in which Jerry Lawler & Larry Sharpe beat Joe Daniels & Sonny Austin. But in what was described as a "4-star brawl," Stan Hansen & Kimala were double DQ'd after brawling all over the track. Ken Patera no-showed.

I REMEMBER: Eddie Graham & Sam Steamboat vs.
El Lobo & Goliath

JULY 1967----The Jack Brisco era hadn't quite dawned and Eddie Graham & Sam Steamboat were in the twilight of their fourth and final reign as NWA world tag team champions.

In the winter of '67, a masked team invaded the Florida wars which looked mean and menacingly like a couple of guys who had battled each other for the partnership of El Mongol in Georgia the previous year.

Graham & Steamboat had gained the better of Lobo & Goliath in a series for the tag belts but the final showdown came in Jacksonville, Florida in a hot summer collision where El Lobo & Goliath put their masks on the line.

L & G had been a pale attempt to recreate the old heat of The Assassins in the early '60s. But Graham was a master at building heat in the 2-out-of-3 fall match. It followed a typical Graham formula. Eddie began to bleed eight minutes into the match and Steamboat spent most of the early fall perpetually on the ringside floor.

At the 13-minute period, appearing to have the life choked out of him, Graham fell victim to Goliath's giant swing for the fall. Finally, in fall 2, Eddie came roaring back with his short chopping punches on El Lobo while Steamboat rallied to pull the huge Goliath outside and slam him on the floor. Graham evened the match with an abdominal stretch on Lobo.

With the crowd properly electrified, Graham and Steamboat put on a tour de force with a series of headbutts, body crashes and human battering rams. As Eddie took out Goliath with his classic left hook, Steamboat caught Lobo with a Thesz press and wrapped up the win at the 29-minute mark.

Ring announcer Tommy Tucker exhorted that "the masked men are to be dehooded." Though Lobo shook his head, Eddie decked him and ripped the mask off to show Oki

Shikima, who had been El Mongol's first Georgia tag partner. The dazed Goliath was unveiled as "Irish" Bobby Graham, who had spent six months as El Mongol's second partner, under the name the Mighty Hercules.

Graham made one final TV appearance in Tampa without the mask but Shikima was allowed to continue wrestling with hood as El Lobo for 2 more months. And we think World Class had the patent on forgetting match stipulations???

RATINGS RAP: CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 18	Rating	Share	Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/18)	2.5	3.7	1.21 mil.
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/17)	2.3	6.1	1.11 mil.
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 9/16)	2.1	4.3	1.04 mil.
NWA CLASH VIII REPEAT (TBS 9/17)	1.5	3.3	745,000
NWA'S GREATEST HITS (TBS 9/17)	1.2	2.5	585,000
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/16, 6 a.m.)	0.6	5.5	298,000

(ANALYSIS: This was the worst-rated week for wrestling shows, in general, this year and the NFL is part culprit. PRIME TIME had its lowest rating and share in eight months, going against the Bills-Broncos game and new offerings on Fox, as well as the other networks. The CLASH repeat ran head-on into strong NFL matchups. WCW simply wasn't a compelling enough show to draw better than a 2.1. If this trend continues, I think it adequately dispels the notion that wrestling and football attract two separate audiences, something I have always felt is nonsense.)

RATINGS RAP: SUNDICATION

Week Ending Sept. 10	Rating	Stations	Pct. U.S.
WWF	7.8	240	97%
NWA	7.2	164	91%

(ANALYSIS: This is the closest race in nearly a year. Part of it is from the NWA pickup of a Saturday New York slot and 5 additional markets. WWF, in fairness, was hurt by football competition and pre-emption on some CBS affiliates carrying U.S. OPEN TENNIS.)

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

We still have the FALL-BRAWL T-SHIRT offer. The next person giving 2 gift subscriptions will receive his or her bonus of 2 free MATWATCH issues for every 7-issue set given (up to 13 bonuses) and an NWA FALL BRAWL t-shirt.

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